

BOOK REVIEWS

CALIFORNIA MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

HANDBOOK OF PEDIATRIC MEDICAL EMERGENCIES — Fourth Edition — Charles Varga, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, University of Oregon Medical School, Senior Attending Pediatrician, The Permanente Clinic and Bess Kaiser Hospital, Portland, Oregon. The C. V. Mosby Co., 3207 Washington Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo. (63103), 1968. 694 pages, with 120 illustrations, \$19.75.

This is the fourth and much improved edition of this volume. It is edited by Dr. Varga alone due to the recent death of Dr. De Sanctis who was formerly co-editor. It is so extensively revised and enlarged, by 248 pages, as to construct a new book rather than a revision. Of 14 major contributors ten are new. This book fulfills the promise of its title very well indeed. It should prove adequate in information and detail for almost all pediatric medical emergency situations. The section on poisons is particularly good and alone might justify the purchase of the book.

WILLIAM C. DEAMER, M.D.

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PEDIATRICS — 14th Edition — Henry L. Barnett, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Pediatrics, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University; Director, Pediatric Service, Bronx Municipal Hospital Center, Bronx, New York. With the collaboration of Arnold H. Einhorn, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University; Director, Pediatric Service, Lincoln Hospital, Bronx, New York. Appleton-Century-Crofts, Division of Meredith Corporation, 440 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. (10016), 1968. 1847 pages, \$24.50.

This large and comprehensive new textbook of pediatrics reflects the combined efforts of Dr. Barnett, his collaborative editor, Dr. Einhorn, 18 associate editors and over 100 other contributors. In keeping with the senior editor's belief that the practicing pediatrician will become increasingly "a specialist in general pediatrics" and that many of his present functions will in the future be delegated to nurses and paramedical personnel, considerable space is assigned to mechanisms of disease and applica-

tions of the basic sciences. This is not to say however that clinical and practical considerations receive secondary attention; the discussions of such threadbare topics as colic, enuresis and breast feeding are models of succinctness and common sense. Therapeutic measures of proven value are clearly distinguished from those whose value is less certain. The importance of the book as a reference text is enhanced by lengthy and well-organized lists of references at the end of each section.

The format of the book is conventional with early chapters devoted to growth and development, general problems of child health and perinatal pediatrics. Thereafter children's diseases are considered according to the principal organ system involved. One might question some of the organization of the material; for example the trisomy syndromes are discussed under mental retardation in the section on the nervous system rather than in the section on genetics. The detailed discussion of cell ultrastructure in the liver section might lead the unwary to believe that such cell organization is unique to the liver cell. The illustrations are adequate, but the color plates, which are of small size and are grouped together at the beginning of the book, are somewhat disappointing. Larger plates of a few carefully selected lesions would have been more informative. The charts and figures are valuable, although some of them require careful study because of the complex nature of the material presented.

The emphasis on mechanisms of disease and a basic science approach makes this a particularly valuable book for medical students, residents and for those preparing for board examination. Certainly no teaching hospital library should be without it. For the practitioner, the book is unique among available texts in providing a blend of practical and basic science material presented in a fresh and lucid manner. It should be required reading for all physicians who wish to keep up with the rapidly changing field of modern pediatrics.

PAUL F. WEHRLE, M.D.